



A show by Molly Knox Ostertag

PREMISE

Neon Galaxy is a classic underdog story: two small-town sisters and their friends form a band and pursue their dream of making music and getting famous. It also happens to take place in the future...and in space!

The year is 2222. Most people scrape out a humble living on **Asteroids**, getting around in plant-powered spaceships. Only the luckiest get to live in the **Megacity**, an idyllic space station. Concerts and music are the main form of entertainment for the galaxy, performed by celebrities (the most famous of whom is **GLEAM**) and beamed out from the Megacity into the sky.

Sisters **Coral** and **Amber** live on an asteroid with their Dad, who is often gone on jobs that take him into deep space. Talented, ambitious Coral loves making music and wants to form a band and share their sound with the galaxy...but she doesn't even know where to start! Until...

The sisters find a swarm of nanobots named **TES**. Coral realizes TES's abilities are the ticket to achieving her dreams. Responsible Amber comes along to take care of her sister as they steal an ice cream delivery spaceship with TES's help...and start the solar system's newest girl group, **Neon Galaxy**!

The first season sees them form a band with friends they meet along the way, street-smart **Blu** and bubbly **Indigo**. TES can turn into costumes and light displays, making them look amazing as the girls bond and discover their identity as a group. Eventually they will become contenders in the upcoming galaxy-wide **Battle of the Bands**! Neon Galaxy looks and sounds way different than the polished bands from the Megacity...but their authenticity and passion might just propel them to success!

It's a show that can delve into themes familiar to kids today - discovering your identity through fashion and performance, sibling dynamics, finding friendship in a chaotic world, chasing big dreams - while the tone stays exciting, dramatic, and fun.



SETTING

A cataclysmic event broke the earth into pieces long ago, but humanity survived by developing plant-based technology. The setting is technologically advanced in some ways - plant powered spaceships hop between the Asteroids, holograms are beamed into the night sky, creative body modifications are common - but most of the tech is old and cobbled together. It's not a sterile, Apple-store style sci-fi setting. This world feels lived in, complex, overgrown with plants and bright with lights and art and personality.



The Asteroids...Coral and Amber's asteroid on the left side, the Megacity far away on the right.

The setting is visually fantastical, a world viewers will want to dive into and explore - but Neon Galaxy is very much a show about people. Even in a far flung future, the way we live and interact and dream is familiar.

Most people live on the broken pieces of earth - the **Asteroids**. All the wealthiest and most fortunate live in the **Megacity**, a massive, futuristic city built on a space station. Resources are scarce outside of the Megacity, and Asteroid dwellers work tough jobs to get by. Neon Galaxy gains popularity by visiting the Asteroids and playing

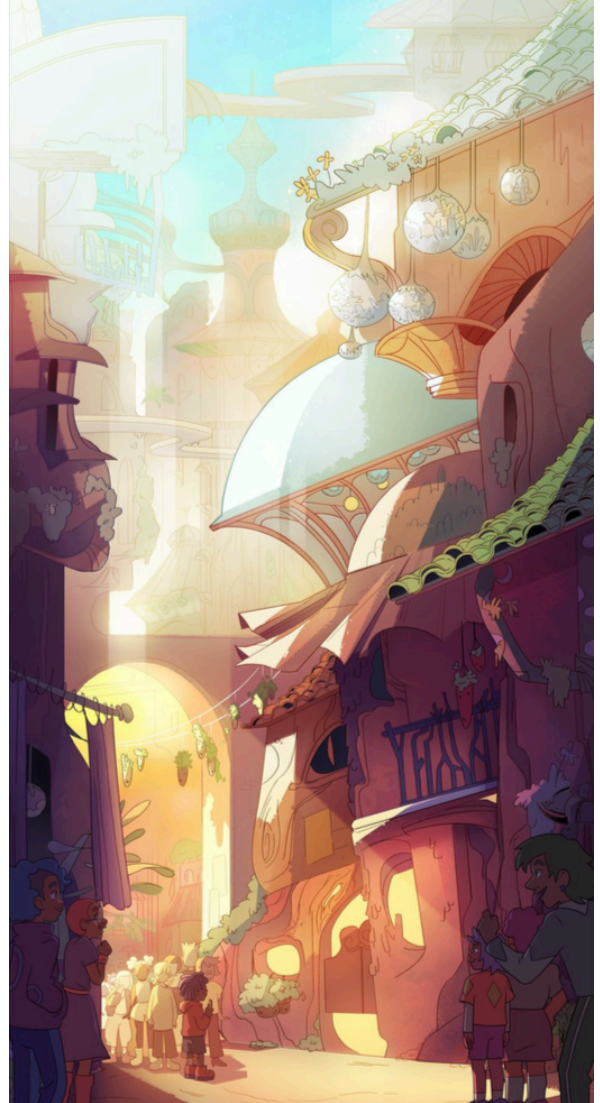
in-person concerts, something that most bands don't do. They make authentic music that inspires and speaks to ordinary people more than music from the Megacity does.



Coral and Amber's living room on their tiny home asteroid.

Neon Galaxy is a show that appeals on two levels. On one hand, it's a **classic wish fulfillment story** – a friend group of aspirational teens achieving success and celebrity, owning the spotlight, travelling to cool locations, and rocking awesome fashion. Who wouldn't be drawn in by that fantasy?

But I also want the show to speak to a deeper theme - the generalized anxiety that a lot of kids have right now about **the state of the world**. Neon Galaxy is purposely set in a world that's suffered a huge cataclysm, a world with disparities and turmoil and trouble...but despite this, life goes on. The world can be scary, but the most important things still end up being **connection, creativity, and big feelings!**



A city street on an Asteroid (above)



The view from a home in the Megacity (below)

AMBER



Voice actor: Ariana Burks

Amber might be the youngest and smallest member of the band, but don't underestimate her - as she'd quickly tell you, she's the brains behind Neon Galaxy, the planner, and *definitely* the most responsible person on their spaceship. A sensible preteen hanging out with drama-loving teens, Amber is our POV character for the show, a foil for everyone to bounce off. When her bandmates get too ridiculous she's always ready to (bluntly) ground them in reality.

Coral is the impulsive big sister, and Amber is used to looking after her. She'll always go along with whatever big idea Coral has - even if she'll complain about it and tell her sis when she's being dumb. That's how it's always been with them. Coral stands in the spotlight, and Amber is comfortable in her shadow, as long as it means being included. But - despite pretending she doesn't - Amber has a lot of repressed feelings that will sometimes bubble out, surprising even her.

Amber's deepest desire is to be included, so she'll always find ways to be useful. Her big arc is about establishing herself as an individual and forming her own connections with people. At first she mistrusts their new bandmates (Blu is totally a scam artist! And Indigo's quick friendship with Coral is kinda threatening!).



But as the show goes on she learns to open herself up, finding a confidant in Indigo and a mentor in Blu. And as she grows more independent from Coral, she starts to wonder - What would it be like in the spotlight? Who would she be without Coral? What are *Amber's* dreams?

Besides managing the band, acting as Coral's informal bodyguard, and running the merch table, Amber plays drums, using them to let out feelings she otherwise keeps hidden.

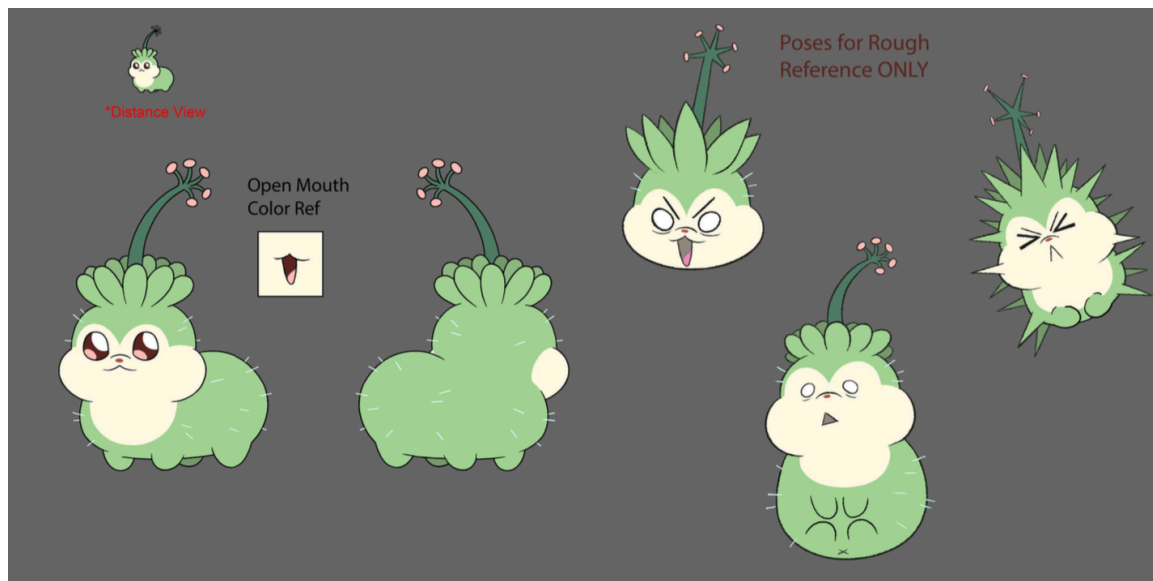
Bulb is Amber's pet. She's a sentient orchid that Amber grew herself. Bulb loves sunlight, grows spikes when scared, and likes to snuggle.



*Responsible. Supportive. Competent.
Skeptical. Blunt. Repressed.*

Character references:

Toph (Avatar the Last Airbender),
April Ludgate (Parks and Rec),
Kanamori (Keep Your Hands Off
Eizouken!), Louise (Bob's Burgers)



Bulb!

CORAL



Voice actor: Ashley De La Rosa

Coral has always known she has a future beyond the little asteroid she grew up on. She loves making music, writing songs, and performing. Music is a way for her to share the inside of her heart...and she won't stop until everyone in the galaxy has heard her songs! Coral is charisma personified, the cool girl everyone wants to emulate (think your best friend's big sister who was kinda intimidating but showed you how to paint your nails; that's Coral).



With a great voice, guitar skills, and genius songwriting chops, Coral leads Neon Galaxy. She inspires her bandmates and fans to follow their dreams. She's the person whose crazy schemes always work out (through a combination of determination, charm, and pure good luck). She's that fun friend who makes you feel like the center of the universe, like you're on an amazing adventure...as long as you let her take the lead. Coral can definitely be a little self-obsessed, so it's important she has people like Amber to see through the sparkle and keep her grounded.

Like all good artists, Coral has a not-so-secret moody side. Her ambition is tied to a chronic illness that makes her reliant on others - especially Amber, who is constantly reminding her to take care of herself. Coral *really* wants to prove her independence. Her dream at the beginning is big but simple: she'll use her talent to become famous, take Amber and their dad to the Megacity, and everything will be good. Fame and fortune and music...she'll never look back.

Coral's arcs will always come down to a central question: fame or friends? Will she be able to pursue her dreams while keeping her relationships intact? And will fame get in the way of why she loves making music in the first place? Achieving her goals will never be too difficult for Coral...the hard part is staying connected to the people who matter.

Coral won't be punished in the story for having big dreams - ambition isn't a bad thing! - but she'll need to learn that success loses its meaning if you don't lift up the people around you. Neon Galaxy is ultimately a story about collaboration and connection!

*Inspirational. Passionate. Ambitious.
Impulsive. Self-focused. Mercurial.*

Character references: Kim Possible, Tahani (the Good Place), Elsa (Frozen), Angel (Pose)



FAMILY

Coral and Amber's Mom disappeared years ago. Coral resents this and never talks about her. Amber looks up to her, and knows that she must have left for a good reason. Mom was a programming genius and you can bet this will come up later in the show!

Their Dad is often gone on deep-space fishing expeditions, so the girls are used to looking out for each other...but he's nonetheless embarrassingly supportive of their goals! He often video calls them in the middle of shows to say he's proud of them.

THE SISTER RELATIONSHIP

Amber and Coral's relationship is the heart of the show. It's not rare for them to have loud fights over whose turn it is to clean the bathroom, or what they should spend their gig money on (how many shoes does Coral need?!), but it's clear to everyone that they share a lot of love and history.

Coral is the center of Amber's universe; Amber's not great at making friends or going on adventures, but she's confident as long as Coral is in the lead. Amber is the only person Coral can be real with, the person whose opinion she values the most, the person she knows will always be there. Coral can climb high because she knows Amber will catch her if she falls. They've always assumed their bond is unbreakable...but as the band becomes successful, that will be tested.

Stories exploring **sibling relationships** and the **character development that happens when you leave home for the first time** are really important to me, personally. My little sister and I have an often-fraught relationship. When we were younger, it felt like if one of us was doing well and succeeding, the other had to be doing worse. We orbited each other, always comparing and competing. She also has some mental health problems which meant I had to be the responsible, low drama child (making me relate to Amber a lot!). It was only when we got some space from each other and could develop as people that we were able to have a healthier relationship.

There's not a direct one-to-one between my life and Amber and Coral, but I've been fascinated with stories about duality in relationships ever since, and am really excited to explore it in Neon Galaxy.



BLU



Voice actor: Leah Lewis

Blu looks after herself, and ONLY herself. Street-smart and witty, a swashbuckling type who's been everywhere and seen everything, Coral is convinced they need Blu's expertise to navigate the galaxy. Amber can tell that she's hiding something, but what?

If you need to organize a heist or find illegal tech, Blu is your girl. If you need to talk about feelings...not so much. She collects oddities and skills, including gourmet cooking, counting cards, and playing most instruments. She's led a rough life, but she gets very picky about little things like keeping the ship tidy.

Her loner life means that she can be kind of awkward - she has a dark sense of humor, which often spooks Indigo (this always makes Blu feel bad). In general, Blu puts out a devil-may-care, too-cool attitude...but she's a secret softie who cares about everything, a LOT. She'll toss out dramatic, often criminal ideas, but is always surprised when Coral actually wants to do them. Blu only notices things when they're useful and is otherwise comically oblivious - for example, she thinks Amber is just an annoying little kid and completely ignores her, until she realizes Amber is the brains of the whole operation.

Blu sees Neon Galaxy as an escape - a way to make cash, travel, and have fun playing music. Besides knowing the cheapest ways to travel the galaxy and how to hotwire their ship to make it go faster, she has fun writing instrumentation for Coral's

songs and backing her up onstage with whatever rare instrument she's obsessed with that week.

At the start of the show, Blu doesn't want to be responsible for anything, which means she's used to temporary friendships. When the going gets tough, Blu gets going without a second thought. However...as the show goes on, Blu will find herself forming unexpected connections with her bandmates and caring about the success of Neon Galaxy. It will take these feelings a while - and even longer for Blu to admit that she has them - but she'll eventually learn how to be vulnerable with her friends. To care about things beyond survival. To stay, and give her bandmates the chance to become the kind of family she never had.

Charming. Clever. Bold.

Opportunistic. Trust issues. Bad at feelings.

Character References: Spike (Cowboy Bebop), Huntress (Birds of Prey), Jughead (Riverdale), Ron Swanson (Parks and Rec)



INDIGO



Voice actor: Christine Carmela

Indigo is SO EXCITED to be traveling the solar system with Neon Galaxy! Maybe it was a little impulsive to leave home with a group of girls she just met, and her rich parents would DEFINITELY not be happy if they knew...but she's confident everything will work out! Anyway, it's not like they're total strangers - she's a big fan of Neon Galaxy, even if she was never allowed to go to their shows. At first she just sent them fan mail and sketches of costume suggestions, but her wild imagination grabbed their attention and they added her to the band as costume and set designer.

Indigo is an incurable optimist (despite Blu's best efforts), bubbly and goofy and open with her feelings. She's had a sheltered upbringing, and out in the galaxy her naïveté will often get her in trouble...but her bandmates, especially Amber, never mind helping her out. She's the emotional heart of the group, the person who gets everyone laughing after a long day and brings out everyone's soft side.

Being in Neon Galaxy gives Indigo the chance to be herself, for the first time ever! See, her family all decided she was a boy when she was born, but she's actually a girl. Leaving home finally gives her the chance to be her authentic self! It's also her first chance to pursue her creative dreams - Indigo doesn't care about success in the way Coral does, but she loves making things! She can get REALLY dorky about her passions, has a super competitive gamer side, knows lots of odd trivia about the galaxy, and reads these old things called 'books'.

Indigo will grow a lot over the course of the show. At first she's content behind the scenes, collaborating with TES to design cool fashion and visuals for Neon Galaxy and looking up to Coral as a role model. But as she gains confidence and discovers her own strength, she'll eventually take her place on stage as a singer and keyboardist!

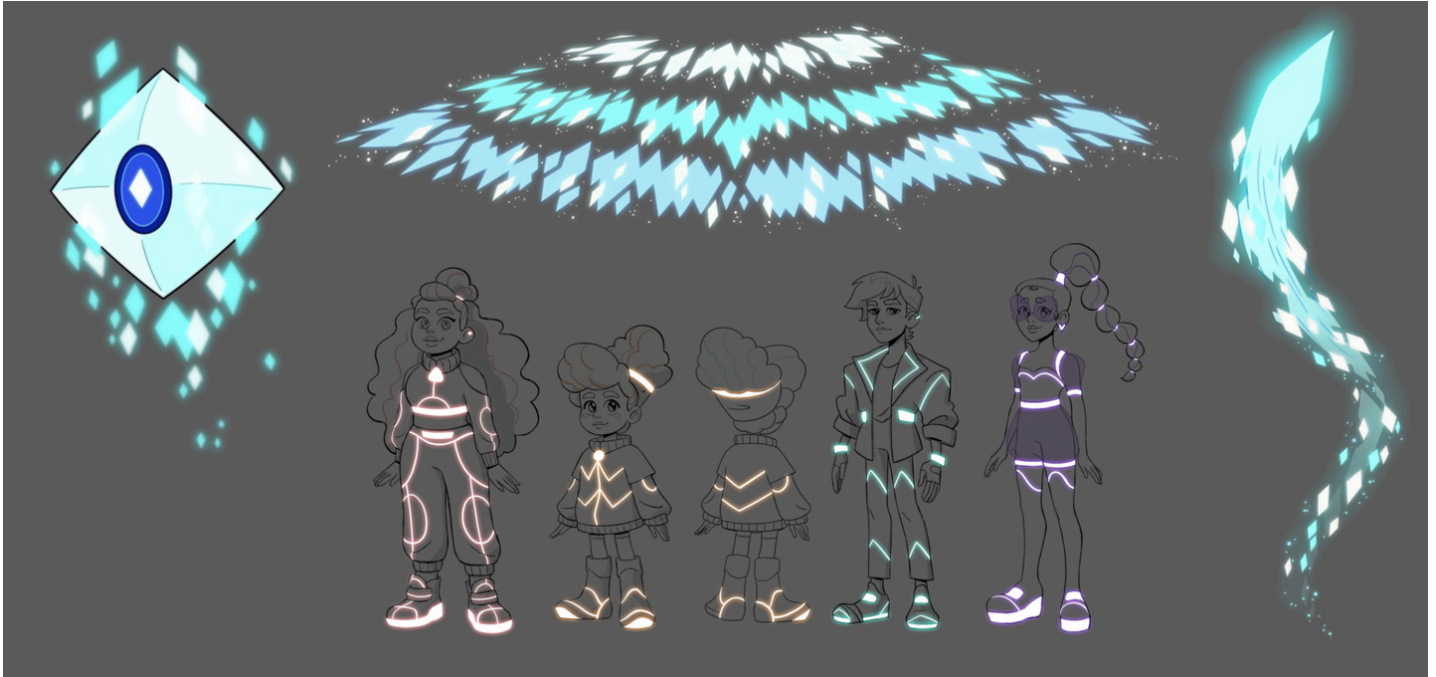
*Creative. Optimistic. Exciting.
Naive. Indecisive. Impractical.*

Character References: Akko (Little Witch Academia), Phoebe (Friends), Evie (Descendants), Perfuma (She-Ra), Leslie Knope (Parks and Rec)



Indigo's bedroom in the Megacity. The portrait on the wall is her with her parents.

TES



Voice actor: uncast, but I keep imagining him as Billy Boyd.

The show begins with Coral and Amber discovering TES, a swarm of tiny nanobots that act as one being. The bots can assemble into cool costumes and accessories for the girls, as well as light displays at their concerts. There are limits to TES's powers - he couldn't turn into something big like a spaceship, strong like a suit of armor, or complicated like a laser gun - but he can help Neon Galaxy look amazing every time they perform!

TES is the embodiment of imagination, and his only limit is the girls' creativity (especially Indigo, who he forms a special bond with). But as the story goes on, we realize TES is not just a tool - as a new A.I., he's like a baby, but a baby with lots of powers. He is chaotic and playful and always running experiments on the people around him. Which can lead to *interesting situations*, like the one time he turned gravity off in the ship just to see what would happen...

Character Reference: Jack-Jack (the Incredibles)

THE BAND

Coral leads the bands on vocals, and sometimes guitar, and of *course* on hyping up the crowd. Amber provides the beat, and sometimes gets carried away with a drum solo when she's going through big feelings. Blu is a jack of all trades, good with many different instruments and handling the sound system. Indigo starts off as the designer, but as she overcomes stage fright she'll take her place as a backup singer (and Blu will teach her keyboard). Though Coral is the lead, as she learns to be better about sharing the stage, the other band members will get a chance to shine and explore their own special talents.

Neon Galaxy is more than a band; it's a found family. By overcoming their differences and bringing their A-game, the girls make something bigger than themselves. There's something so playful about collaboration that I want to capture - many of my best friendships came from working on a project together and I want to show how thrilling that is! Being creative also lets you find your identity, grow as a person, and become more confident and empowered, and we'll get to see this happen for all the characters in different ways.

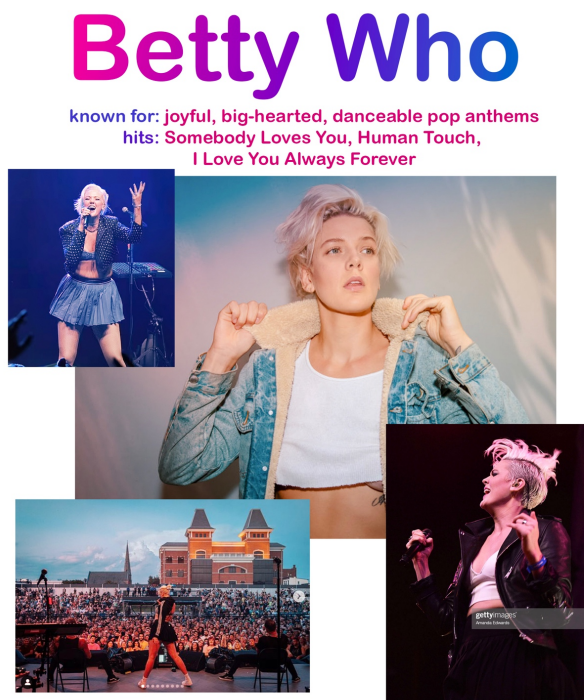


THE MUSIC

Neon Galaxy is a band show, so music and performance is at the heart of the story! Music in this show is an expression of personality and emotion, and often conflicts the band members are having will be worked out through song. It's not a classic musical - the songs are diegetic, so they're actually taking place in the story. From playing on stage to a packed arena, to jamming in the spaceship living room, to strumming alone in bed figuring out lyrics...music will be woven into every episode.

We've been working with the incredible pop star Betty Who to develop the sound of the show - moody ballads with beautiful lyrics, upbeat 80s inspired dance numbers, and dreamy synth-infused songs that sound like they were recorded in a bedroom at the end of an emotional day.

The introduction of other bands in the story would be a great way to explore different genres. I want to avoid direct references to real world artists, but by drawing on a mix of inspiration we can make fresh, exciting sounding music for the year 2222!



Giant, ever-expanding playlist of inspiration:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6rZIFKW0wllQLpcqkVfc5k?si=913aaa07905a4d8a>

GLEAM

GLEAM is the It Girl of the music industry, the biggest celebrity in the galaxy! Her Megacity concerts are beamed into the sky, her personal life the subject of breathless news reports. She's adored, with legions of fans (and haters; she's at the level of fame where everyone has a strong opinion about her). To Coral, she seems perfect; talented, beautiful, fashion forward, polished, edgy but not *too* edgy.

She is competing in the Battle of the Bands and, of course, favored to win. But as Neon Galaxy rises, they realize she's not the genius that she seems. She's the product of an army of managers, stylists, songwriters, and sponsors (led by a mysterious and slightly sinister talent scout, **Baron V**).

Neon Galaxy's runaway success comes from their collaboration, their authenticity, and their ability to connect to ordinary people. GLEAM, and the people behind her, will become antagonists as they try to take Neon Galaxy down.



THE COMPETITION

As Neon Galaxy seeks attention and fame, they often find themselves competing against other bands! They'll have awesome musical battles over territory and good gigs, and even collaborate from time to time.

Jenni and the Scavengers - a band composed entirely of semi-feral children. They're as likely to put out a catchy, manic dance track (think: 100 geecs) as they are to infiltrate your ship and steal everything not nailed down.

AllHail - Terrabeth and Josen might be the most famous couple in the galaxy. From two royal families, they're known for their dramatic, high budget concerts and a regular cycle of breakup songs, followed by getting together songs, followed by love songs, followed by breakup songs...

Tremors - a spooky boy singing eerie ballads about the darker things in life. He always seems mildly annoyed with his popularity.

Fortress - they only appear in concert as a huge, cobbled-together mecha that dances to the cutting-edge electronic music being played inside its body. There's a lot of speculation as to who is inside (spoiler: it's a bunch of nerdy engineers).

f8 - (pronounced 'fate') a boy band famous for their dance moves and on-stage stunts. Their lead singer, **Ares**, has a competitive nature that is matched only by Coral's ambition. They are bitter rivals...but along with the rivalry comes some romantic tension!

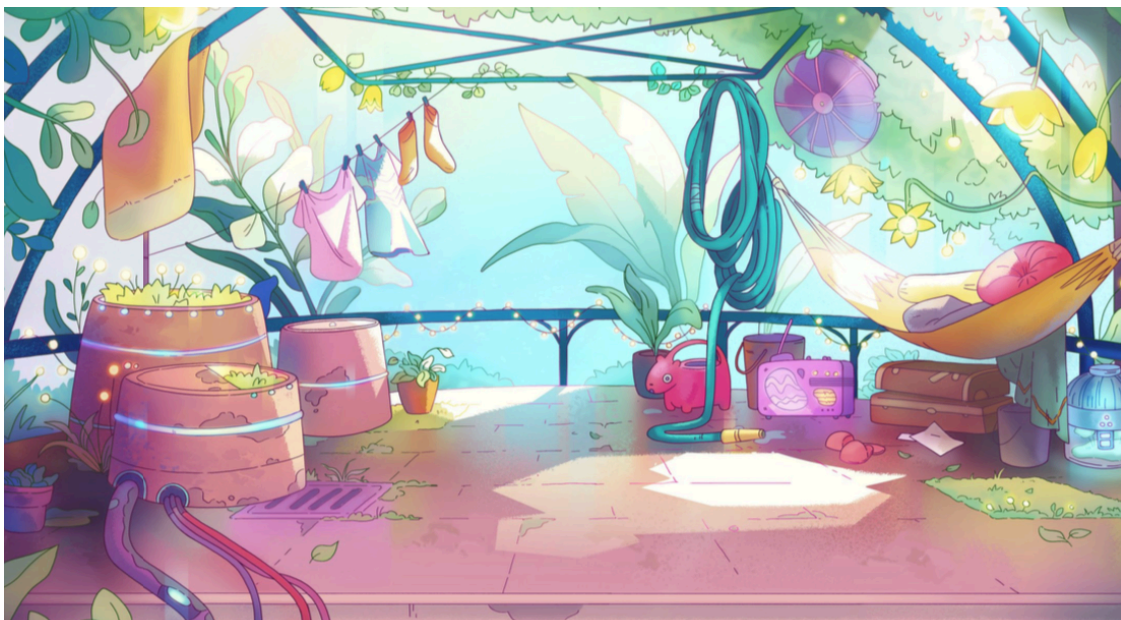
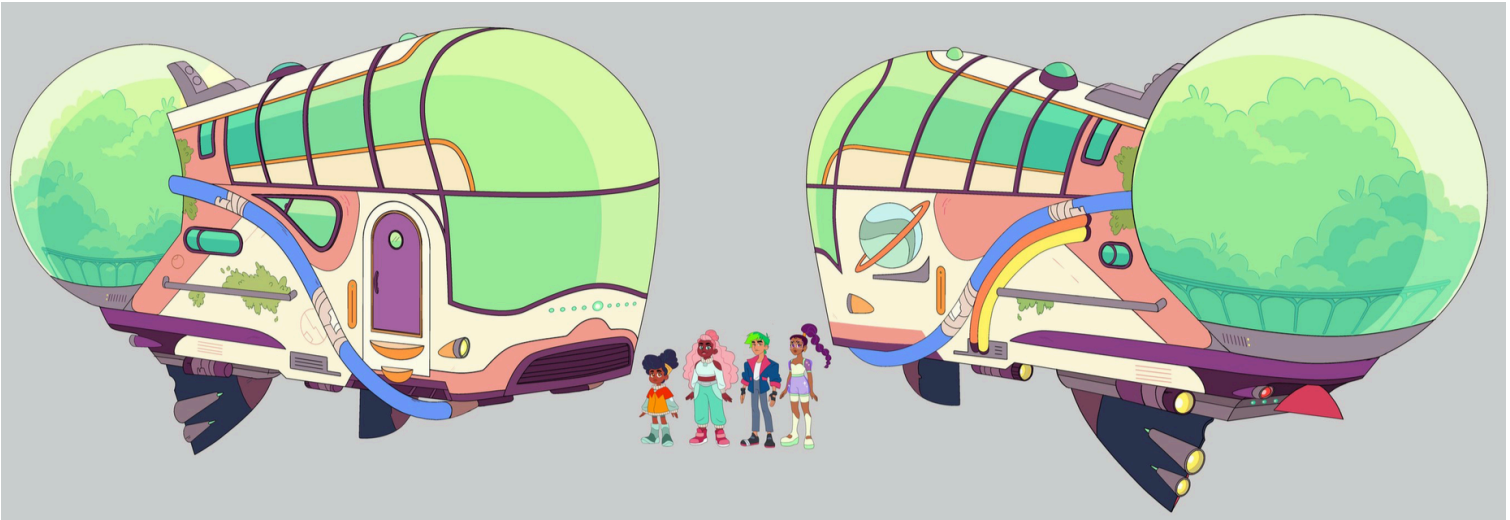


Ares (voice actor: JJ Hawkins) vs Coral

THE SHOW

An average 11-minute episode of Neon Galaxy will focus on the fun, humor, and most importantly DRAMA of four teen girls in a band. Stories will mostly be about their road to success, booking gigs and getting fans and playing shows, but there will definitely be room for other topics. Sister drama, TES-caused chaos, visiting asteroids and meeting new people - there will be a lot of variety to the story.

Their base will always be the stolen ice cream delivery spaceship, which they'll make into a home as they work through roommate conflicts (like, who keeps leaving the spaceport windows open and melting all the ice cream?!). The show has the feel of taking a summer road trip in a trailer with your big sister and her cool friends - seeing lots of new places and having adventures and always ending the day together.



Combination practice room/greenhouse/Blu's bedroom

EPISODE SPRINGBOARDS

SECRET - Amber realizes Coral is running low on medication. Coral makes her promise not to tell Blu and Indigo - she doesn't want to seem weak to them. After all, a big producer has booked Neon Galaxy to play at his kid's birthday party and it's their first real chance to get discovered. Coral pushes all of them hard in practice - they have to be PERFECT! Amber is worried about her sister, but keeps her secret. However, Coral's illness catches up to her at the gig, where she passes out on stage before they can even perform. At first this feels like failure...Neon Galaxy is quickly replaced at the party, and Coral wakes up alone in a hospital. But then Amber comes in with Indigo and Blu - she's told them everything, and they don't think any less of Coral. They play the song they were working on in Coral's hospital ward instead. There might not be any big producers here but they gain a lot of new fans!



THAT ORANGE COAT - The band is booked to play a venue for three nights. Indigo decides they need to elevate their looks! ESPECIALLY Amber, who just doesn't dress like someone in a supercool band! They make her donate her favorite orange coat to a thrift store. Indigo gives her a Lady-Gaga-weird makeover the first night, Blu makes her look like a supercool tough guy the second night, and Coral dresses her in glitter and pink the third night. But Amber just can't play drums if she doesn't feel like herself! Their gigs go terribly until, on the third night, Amber sees an audience member wearing HER ORANGE COAT! It's only when she reclaims it that she gets her confidence back and they play a killer set.

SPORTSBALL - A zero-gravity version of football is wildly popular on the asteroids. In their biggest gig yet, Neon Galaxy is hired to play the halftime show at a game...but enemy boy band f8 is determined to seize the spotlight (and the hefty paycheck)! Their musical battle spills into the game itself and they have to compete in the zero-grav arena!

SUPERFAN - Amber has a superfan! She follows them from show to show and always wants to talk to Amber and get her signature. Amber isn't used to this kind of attention but finds herself really liking it, and gets defensive when Coral thinks there's something odd about this superfan. It turns out that Coral's right - she's actually a secret agent from another band trying to break them up! After they foil her plot, Amber is sad - of course she doesn't have any real fans - so Coral gives her a surprise drum solo at their next performance.

THE BIG PICTURE

Here are some fun overarching plots that will keep viewers coming back for more!

Becoming a Band

The first arc will be built around the Neon Galaxy establishing themselves; booking gigs and building a fanbase and finding out their identity as a band. They all have unique talents, but will they be able to work together?

As Neon Galaxy starts to come together, their authenticity and creativity will make them stand out...but there are plenty of mishaps along the way. Rival bands will see them as easy targets and try to take them down. Internal conflicts will cause trouble too - will Coral be too overbearing? Will Blu leave when this stops being fun? Will Indigo overcome her stage fright? Will Amber let the band get as weird as they need to in order to be truly great?

They'll have to discover what they really love about the band - the friendship and creativity that comes from making music together! - before they can start on the road to success.



The Battle of the Bands

Eventually Neon Galaxy gains the attention of a mysterious talent scout - **Baron V**, who discovered GLEAM and made her into a star! He hints that he could do the same for Neon Galaxy...if they enter the galaxy-wide **Battle of the Bands**.

They'll go up against other bands, get into scrapes, visit new places, and constantly try to come up with ideas to stay one step ahead of the competition. TES is a help and a hindrance; the nanobots let the girls have exciting visuals, but he often gets his own ideas and shows can become pretty chaotic! Baron V will help along the way, sending them funds and inside tips and generally grooming them for stardom. Maybe he doesn't understand *all* the girls' most out-there ideas, but he can tell they have talent.

This arc will end with their victory! However, Baron V decides that only Coral has 'star potential' - the other band members are replaceable. This is Coral's chance at stardom, to be as big as GLEAM, but she'll have to leave Neon Galaxy behind. This conflict - friends or fame? - will define Coral's arc this season. Will she be convinced that she is the only genius behind Neon Galaxy, or will she stick up for her bandmates?

Coral will realize that her bandmates deserve this just as much as she does - success doesn't mean anything if you don't lift up the people around you. Her choice will be a big milestone for her! This makes her different from GLEAM. Rejecting the entire music industry of the Megacity will set the band on a new, exciting track.

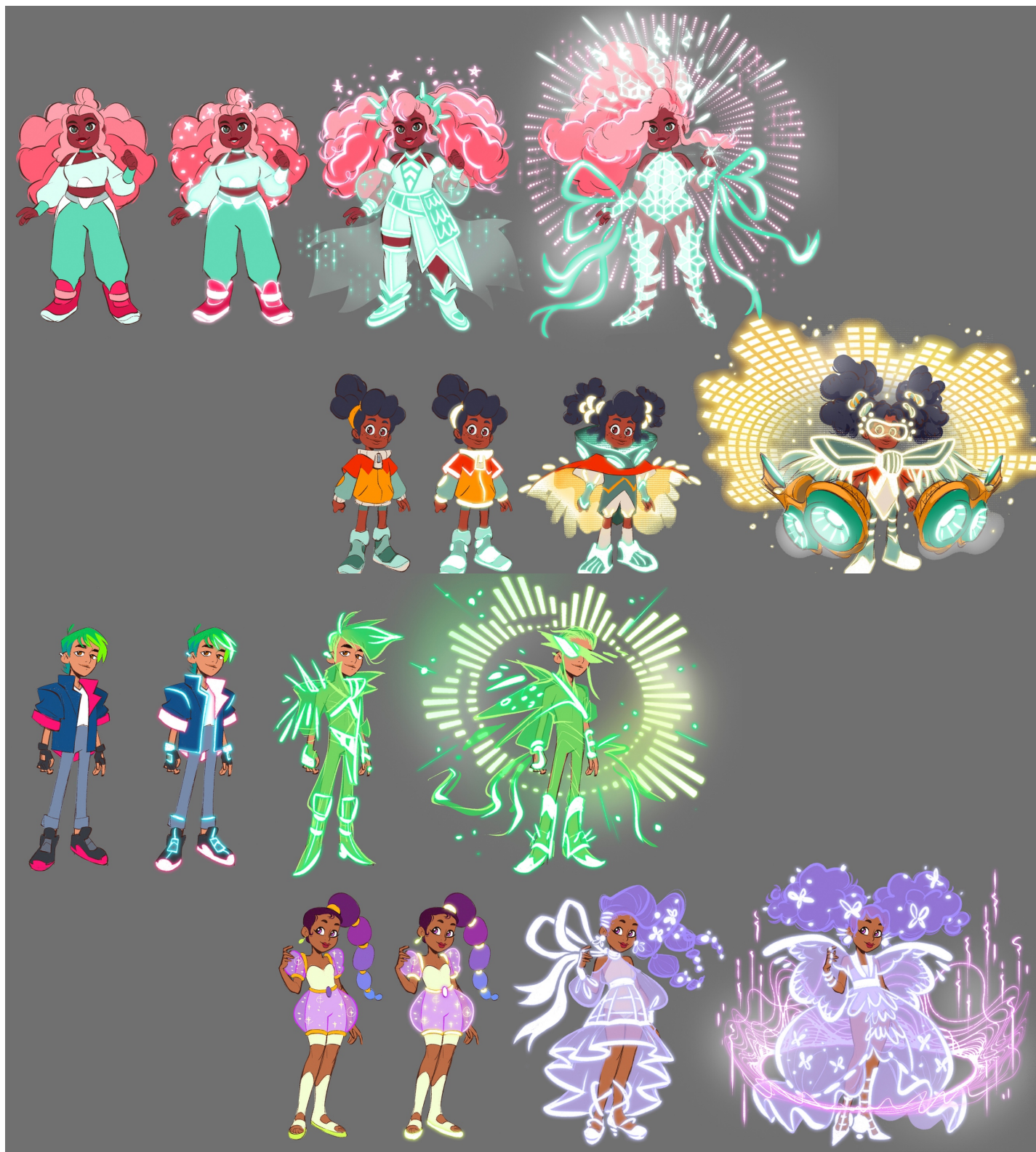
Authentic vs. Artificial

Coral's choice means creative freedom, but that comes with a price. Neon Galaxy travels to the farthest Asteroids, inspiring others to start bands. Baron V and GLEAM are determined to take down the band, any way they can, and they provide conflict as they try to foil their success and steal TES.

A tentpole episode reveals that GLEAM is actually a hologram - when the original singer got too rebellious, Baron V just replaced her. This is the sinister, endgame plot of the show. **On one side:** managers and sponsors from the Megacity who want to replace all real musicians with fake holograms that look, sing, and act the same, but are much easier to control. Polished, produced music with no heart. **On the other side:** the irreplaceable authenticity, chaos, and pure creative joy of Neon Galaxy. *Music that inspires rather than sedates, that engages rather than distracts, that lifts people up.*

Will this scrappy band be able to take on the entire music industry? Will they convince competing bands to help, or have some of the other bands *already* been replaced with holograms? One thing's for sure: the goals the characters began with will have to change. They'll need to figure out what really matters to them, and how to fight for it. And when they're done, the futuristic world of music will never be the same.

As the show goes on, we'll get to see the band undergo a transformation! TES's abilities will expand, and we'll get some truly incredible magical-girl worthy stage looks. Here's a preview of how their looks will change (with TES's help!) throughout the show:



THEMES

Everyone has dreams. Neon Galaxy explores what happens when you pursue those dreams, both good and bad. For kids today, performance and sharing are easier than ever (and more dreamed of than ever; every teen wants to be a YouTube star! A whole new generation of musicians are coming up on Spotify!). But what happens when the world you want to be a part of has a dark secret at its heart? When you find out people you thought were geniuses are actually carefully polished products?

Performing can help you **discover your identity** and **find your community**, the central themes of the show. But performing can also **trap you in an identity that no longer fits**, or **lead to success that will leave you isolated**. These are ideas with a lot of built in conflict and nuance that I believe will resonate with modern viewers. Time and time again, the girls of Neon Galaxy will realize that they need to stick together and trust each other - and themselves.

Finally, I made a show about music because it was something that always intimidated me when I was younger. Musical taste and knowledge felt like a measure of coolness that I could never meet. It was only when I realized that I could **connect to music through narrative** – through knowing the background of the artists, watching their videos, knowing what the songs were written about – that I began to really enjoy it. I want Neon Galaxy to help kids relate to music!

